

Subject: Method of cleaning silver and
copper proof coins

Hagemeyer, Arthur H.
[White Plains, NY]

1924

16 LAFAYETTE STREET
WHITE PLAINS
NEW YORK

Sept. 18, 1924.

Dear Sir,-

I recently wrote to Mr. Duffield, Editor of The Numismatist, asking him to advise me the best method of cleaning Silver and Copper Proof Coins which have become badly tarnished and corroded and he suggested Potassium Cyanide for the Silver, but knew of nothing for the Copper Coins; he also suggested my writing you on the subject which accounts for this letter. I am a beginner and have a small collection, some of my Silver Coins have become very much tarnished and some of my Coppers are corroded; do you know of anything that I can use to clean them which will not injure the coins, which as I stated, are Proofs. This has also happened to some of my uncirculated coins and do you know of anything which I could use to clean these without injuring them.

Any advice you can give me will be greatly appreciated and thanking you, I remain,

Yours very truly,

Arthur H. Hagemeyer.

Per m. J.

October 8th, 1924

Mr. Arthur H. Hagemeyer
16 Lafayette Street
White Plains, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

Replying to your favour of September 18th, we here generally remove tarnish and superficial dirt with a weak solution of potassium cyanide, or a weak solution of ammonia in warm water. The former we do not generally advise; we have had good results with the ammonia.

If the copper coins are badly corroded, formic acid and soda crystals will oftentimes remove this. And carbonate of soda with a drop of acetic acid often works.

This is about the best advice we can give you.

Very truly yours,

Curator

16 LAFAYETTE STREET
WHITE PLAINS
NEW YORK

October 11th 1914

Dear Sir,

I wish to thank you for your letter of October 8th which I have received and to express my appreciation of your interest in this matter.

Very truly yours,

Arthur H. Hagemeyer
E.P.